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ABSTRACT

THIS REPORT IS A SUMMARY OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE RESEARCH COORDINATING UNIT (RCU) OF NEVADA WHICH CARRIED OUT A VARIETY OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION. IN THE AREA OF DEVELOPMENTAL RESEARCH, THE RCU CONDUCTED A SURVEY OF VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL EDUCATION NEEDS AND RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE PROGRAM BOTH ON A STATE-WIDE AND INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BASIS. VARIOUS PROGRAMS WERE ESTABLISHED WHICH WERE CONCERNED PRIMARILY WITH ORGANIZATION, DEVELOPMENT, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SPECIFIC EDUCATIONAL AND COUNSELING PROGRAMS. FACILITY PLANNING WAS ALSO CARRIED OUT TO ANALYZE PRESENT NEEDS, TO AID IN PLANNING FOR NEW FACILITIES, AND TO INCREASE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE PLANNING PROCESS. THE RCU ORGANIZED CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS TO EXPLORE SPECIFIC PROBLEMS AND TO SHARE NEW IDEAS IN THE FIELD. IN ADDITION, THE RCU PUBLISHED BOOKLETS, PAMPHLETS, AND REPORTS WHICH INCLUDED POSITION PAPERS, INFORMATIONAL DOCUMENTS, NEWSLETTERS, AND REPORTS ON SPECIFIC PROJECTS. (BC)

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J. Clark Davis, Director
Research and Educational Planning Center
College of Education
University of Nevada
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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF

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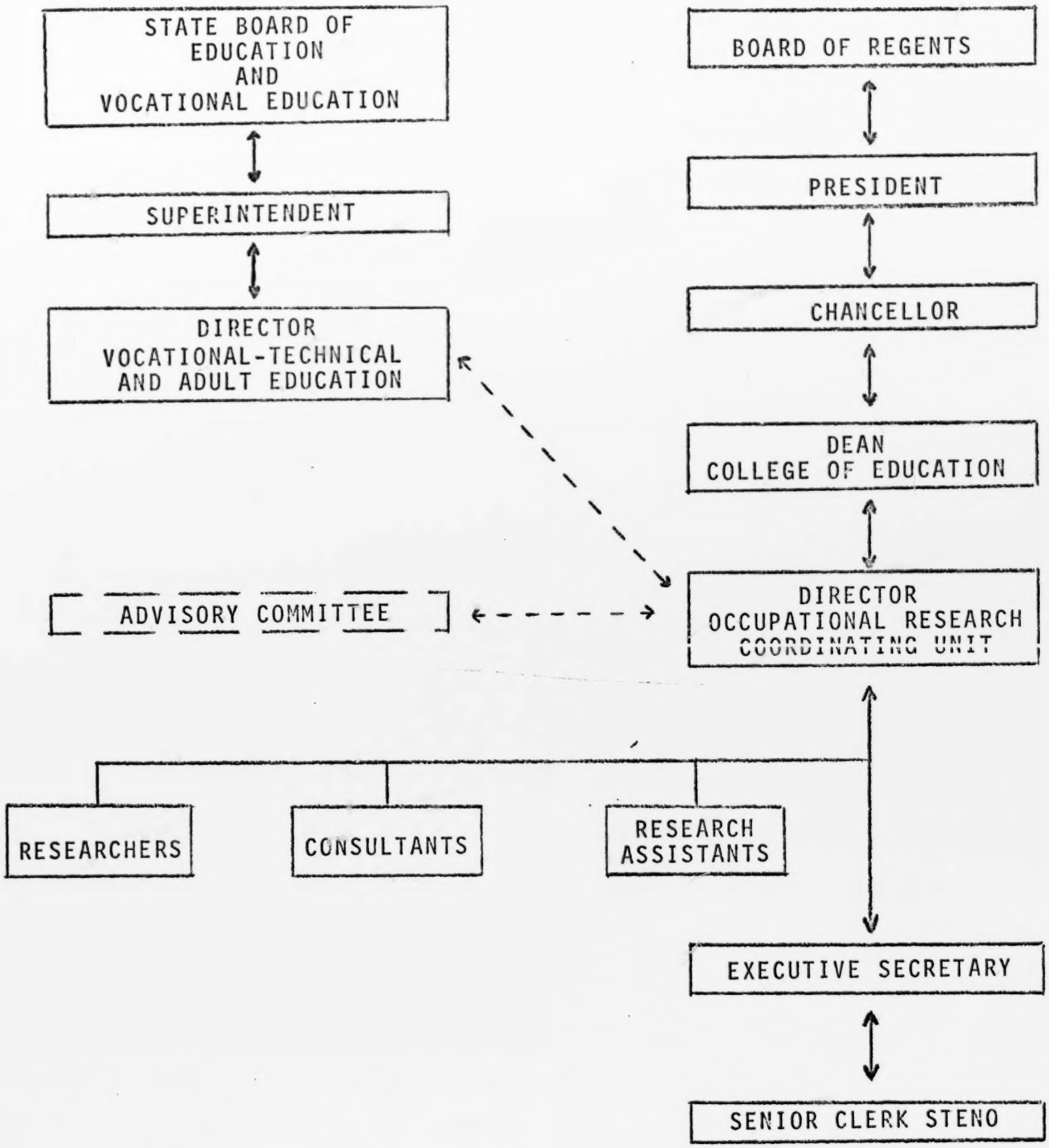
PART I -- INTRODUCTION

Purpose and Objectives

The Nevada Occupational Research Coordinating Unit was approved for the State of Nevada, effective July 1, 1966, and was located in the Research and Educational Planning Center, College of Education, University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada. The unit was funded under provisions of Section 4(c) of the Vocational Education Act of 1963 and operated until August 31, 1969 at which time RCU activities for the State of Nevada were assumed by the Nevada State Department of Education.

Under provisions of the grant, the RCU's main objectives for its first three years of operation included: (1) stimulate and encourage occupational research; (2) coordinate occupational research activities within the State of Nevada and also outside of the State; (3) disseminate the results of occupational research; (4) help in the training of occupational researchers; (5) furnish schools in Nevada with up-to-date information on employment opportunities, trends, and projections to aid in curriculum planning; (6) conduct occupational research; and (7) determine the vocational education needs of all people in all communities including: (a) the needs of those persons with special handicaps, (b) the special needs of those persons in small communities.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Research and Development Activities

It is the purpose of this report to provide a summary of the major activities of the Nevada RCU from July 1, 1966 to August 31, 1969. Broadly, the activities conducted by the RCU staff can be termed research and development. For the purposes of this report, these activities have been divided in the following manner:

1. Developmental Research -- Developmental research activities included the assessment of vocational-technical education needs, analysis of current vocational-technical education programs, and recommendations for improving vocational-technical education programs. Projects were conducted on both a state-wide and individual school district basis.

2. Program Development - Program development was concerned with the organization, development, and implementation of specific educational and counseling programs in the vocational-technical area.

3. Facility Planning - Facility planning activities included the analysis of facility needs for vocational-technical programs, planning specific vocational-technical facilities, and working with groups to increase their knowledge and sophistication of facility planning processes.

4. Conferences, Workshops, and Seminars - These activities consisted of bringing groups together to explore specific problems, share new information, and work on evaluative and general research skills in the area of vocational-technical education.

5. Publications - The RCU published numerous reports, pamphlets, and booklets throughout the three year period. These included reports of specific research projects, position papers, informational documents, and a semi-monthly newsletter. All publications were available upon request to interested persons and institutions. Certain informational documents and position papers were distributed to schools throughout the state, members of the State Legislature, State Department of Education, ERIC, and other RCU's.

Members of the RCU staff also attended many conferences, presented papers at various vocational-technical education

meetings, and were involved in numerous planning sessions and problem-solving meetings with the business and educational leaders throughout the State of Nevada.

PART II -- MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

A. Developmental Research

Several developmental research projects were conducted by the RCU to assist school, community, legislative, and business leaders in improving vocational-technical education programs.

1. RCU researchers worked with the Washoe County School District, Reno, Nevada; Churchill County School District, Fallon, Nevada; White Pine County School District, Ely, Nevada; and Lyon County School District, Yerington, Nevada. A total of approximately 35 percent of Nevada's K-12 enrollment is contained in these districts. In studying the vocational-technical education programs of these districts, an analysis of needs and recommendations for improvements were determined. Various elements of the studies included:

   a. A study of all dropouts for a six-year period. Questionnaires were sent to each student and parent. Comparative samples of graduates were also included.

   b. A survey of all 7-12 students and parents to determine vocational and/or professional aspirations.

   c. A study of all vocational-technical courses in each school.

   d. A survey of all principle business and industrial employers to determine projected work skill needs and employment opportunities.

2. Two by-products of these comprehensive studies were useful to other RCU research activities as well. First, an Occupational Interest Inventory questionnaire was developed with the cooperation of IBM. Second, projections of work skill needs of major business and industry for Nevada and eleven western states were developed in cooperation with the Employment Security Department.

3. A study of the attitudes held by Nevada ninth grade students toward Home Economics and related jobs was cooperatively conducted by the State Department of Education; all school districts in the state; Home Economics Department of the College of Agriculture, University of Nevada, Reno; and the RCU. A total of 7,542 students was surveyed. Results of the study are being used to up-grade home economics programs throughout the state.

4. The RCU cooperated with the University of Nevada Vocational-Agricultural Department and the State Vocational Division - Vocational-Agricultural Section, to evaluate the Elko County Vocational-Agricultural program. Evaluative criteria established by the Ohio State Vocational-Technical Center were utilized in the evaluation. Fourteen vocational-agricultural instructors also participated in the evaluation review. The RCU published the findings and distributed them to vocational-agricultural departments and schools throughout the State.

5. The RCU was given the task of gathering data concerning projected occupation and industry needs for the State of Nevada through 1975. This information was used by the State Department of Education in the development of their master plan for education. Specifically, these data included:
   a. An analysis of present vocational-technical programs being offered above high school levels.
   b. Adult education manpower development.
   c. Analysis of the needs of present and proposed industries in the State.
   d. Department of Employment Security statistical data concerning total number and per cent of people unemployed and drawing unemployment compensation.
   e. A description of the characteristics of people on welfare with emphasis on their educational background.
6. Upon request of the Governor, the RCU worked with the Governor's Council and State Department of Education in studying the possibilities for the establishment of a community college system in Nevada. The RCU's job was to determine the adequacy of existing occupational vocational departments in selected high schools to serve as community college auxiliary facilities.
7. The RCU worked with the Vocational Division of the State Department of Education concerning the feasibility of a work-study program, physical education program, and increased vocational guidance activities

in the Lyon County School District, Yerington, Nevada. School district occupational education personnel and guidance counselors worked with RCU consultants throughout the project. In addition to an analysis of vocational-technical programs, a follow-up study of graduates and an occupational interest survey were conducted.

8. The RCU developed a Title I Higher Education Act project, "Assessment of Educational and Employment Needs of the Black Community in Washoe County," which involved inter-racial community cooperation. The project Steering Committee was composed of three members of the Race Relations Committee, one representative from Employment Security, one representative from a major business in the area, one representative from the school district, and one representative from the Research Coordinating Unit. Most of the coordination and data collection was undertaken by members from the black community. All interviewers were selected from the Washoe County black community and received special training from a Stanford University researcher.

B. Program Development

The RCU undertook several long-term experimental program development projects. The projects served two purposes: (1) to upgrade or augment existing programs in participating schools and (2) to determine the applicability

of these programs in other school and school districts.

1. The RCU worked cooperatively with personnel from the Western States Small Schools Project and the Lincoln County School District in developing vocational guidance concepts and a career selection program designed specifically for students in grades one through twelve in schools isolated from urban areas. The project titled, "Exploring the World of Work," also involved an extensive in-service program to acquaint teachers with the availability of world of work materials and their use.
2. Also in Lincoln County, the RCU and the school district worked cooperatively in developing a portable "World of Work" resource center for the Caliente Girls Reform School. The portable unit includes books, pamphlets, micro-fiche, film strips, and other media. RCU consultants and Lincoln County teachers also worked with teachers at the girls school to develop guidance procedures focused on decision-making concerning career opportunities.
3. The RCU supported research at Clark High School in Las Vegas, Nevada concerning vocational guidance procedures with under-achievers. The research resulted in the development of an occupational counseling program for Negro students. The program has been implemented in other Las Vegas high schools.
4. The RCU participated in the development of an adult testing center in Washoe County. Washoe County School

District, State Department of Education, and RCU personnel worked to develop the organizational structure and material needs for a testing center to assist the adult population with services not offered by such agencies as the Employment Security Department, University of Nevada, and others.

5. The RCU and Far West Regional Laboratory were involved in a cooperative research effort using the in-service mini-course packages, developing the techniques of inquiry as a method in classroom methodology developed by the Laboratory. Working with the Secondary Education Department, College of Education, University of Nevada, Reno, the mini-course packages were utilized for pre-service training with student teachers to assess their usefulness in training occupational vocational student teachers across the country.
6. The RCU worked with educational directors at the Nevada State Prison in strengthening the prison's vocational-technical testing program. RCU consultants also assisted in establishing business advisory groups to counsel in the development of the vocational program.

C. Facility Planning

The RCU was involved in assisting with planning facilities to house expanding vocational-technical programs. An increasing need for greater involvement is seen for future years.

1. In response to a growing concern due to rapidly expanding vocational-technical programs across the country, the RCU and Nevada School Planning Laboratory jointly sponsored a National Conference on Planning for Vocational Facilities. The conference was funded by the U. S. Office of Education and held in Las Vegas, Nevada, May, 1967.
2. RCU consultants worked with the Clark County School District, Las Vegas, Nevada concerning the proposed expansion of the Las Vegas Vocational-Technical Center. A program of action for facility addition was developed.
3. RCU consultants produced educational specifications for vocational-technical facilities in the new 7-12 secondary school in the Eureka County School District, Eureka, Nevada. The RCU provided follow-up services during the design and construction phases.
4. Upon completion of the Lyon County School District vocational study, the RCU assessed the district's facilities in relation to program needs. Recommendations were made to the school board concerning additional facilities requirements for vocational education throughout the county.

D. Conferences, Workshops, and Seminars

With the cooperation of various groups and agencies, the RCU sponsored and conducted numerous short conferences, workshops, and seminars aimed at promoting new working relationships, disseminating information, and developing

skills and competencies. Some of these are summarized below.

1. The RCU held a half-day conference with interested University professional staff members to describe the activities of the RCU and to encourage university staff members to become engaged in vocational-technical activities at the school district level focusing primarily on research in the vocational-technical field.
2. RCU consultants held several meetings with Humboldt County School District personnel for the purpose of familiarizing themselves with the Stanford University Vocational Education Flexible Scheduling Project.
3. In cooperation with the State Department of Education and the Department of Vocational Agricultural Teacher Training - University of Nevada, the RCU sponsored two meetings -- one in Elko, Nevada and one in Winnemucca, Nevada. These meetings brought together vocational-agriculture teachers, State Department personnel, and University of Nevada personnel to work on assessment procedures for evaluating vocational-agriculture programs in individual schools throughout the state. An evaluative criteria was developed through a cooperative effort and was used as a training procedure to evaluate the Elko County Vocational-Agriculture Department. The major purpose of the sessions was to develop greater competence on the part of vocational agriculture teachers to assess

their program in light of how well they were reaching their training objectives.

4. The RCU brought together the Superintendent of Public Instruction for the State of Nevada and two of his Associate Superintendents for a conference with RCU personnel and Dr. Duane Nielsen of the Washington, D. C. office. A number of decisions were made concerning the cooperative efforts of the RCU with the State Department of Education.
5. The RCU sponsored a seminar attended by legislators, school administrators, State Department of Education personnel, and University personnel at which Dean Wayne Miller of Oklahoma State Tech, Okmulgee, Oklahoma described the program of the post-secondary residential school.
6. In a series of meetings, the RCU worked with Nevada members of the Eight State Project, "Designing Education for the Future," directed by Dr. Edgar Morphet, in formulating statements concerning planning for occupational education that were incorporated as part of the design for education in the 1980's.
7. A series of meetings was held with personnel from the University of Nevada Technical Institute to assist in designing new programs for students.

E. Publications

Reports of many RCU projects were published and disseminated throughout the state. Other RCU's and ERIC position papers

were disseminated to help provide direction in planning, development, and operation of vocational-technical programs. It is not the intent here to summarize these, but merely to list them for future reference.

1. RCU Report, a semi-monthly newsletter, was published throughout the three-year period of operation. A total of 48 issues were sent to over 1,200 recipients per issue in the state and throughout the country.

2. Research Reports

   "A Study of Vocational-Technical Education in the Churchill County School District"

   "A Study of Vocational-Technical Education in the Washoe County School District"

   "A Study of Vocational-Technical Education in the White Pine County School District"

   "Group Counseling and Personal Development, Clark High School, 1967-68"

   "Proceedings of the National Conference on Vocational-Technical Facility Planning, May, 1967"

   "Career Development Concepts: Significance and Utility"

3. Pamphlets, Books, Position Papers

   "Vocational Education and the Comprehensive High School: A Challenge to Administrators"

   "An Annotated Bibliography on Vocational-Technical Education"

   "The Role of Vocational-Technical Education and the Holding Power of the Schools"